

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable James T. Lynn, Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Jim:

I have Don Ogilvie's letter of March 17, 1976 in which he requested a final review of your proposed classified FY 1977 Intelligence Budget Appendix.

The CFI has discussed the appendix at some length. We have come to the unanimous conclusion that, although such a document may be a positive addition to the fund of knowledge which exists to assist the Congress in considering our FY 1977 budget, it ought not be published or sent to the Congress at this time.

There are several reasons for urging you not to publish the appendix. The principal ones are:

- The current state of flux within the Congress concerning oversight of intelligence makes it unclear that release could be limited to the four oversight committees.
- The stated purpose of having such a document to show to any member of Congress--whether under controlled conditions or not--puts us prematurely into the middle of the question of control of documents within the Congress. Moreover, I am not convinced that Chairman Mahon shares the views of his staff on the question of how much information he is obligated to provide to the membership at large.

- The avowed intent of some members to make independent determinations as to the releasability of intelligence budgets argues strongly against providing a single document with the level of detail contained in your proposed appendix. I think, by sending such a document, we may be putting the Chairmen of our Oversight Committees in an untenable position.
- We have already been fully open and responsive to the needs of all current Oversight Committees. The nineteen volumes of detailed budget justification together with testimony and statements for the record add up to more information than any committee has ever had in the past as a basis for their deliberations.

Should you, despite the CFI's concern, feel compelled to provide a classified budget appendix to Congress, I commend to your attention the version proposed by DoD as an alternative. It has been provided informally to members of your staff and represents, in the CFI's view, the upper limit of what ought to be provided as a non-codeword budget appendix.

Sincerely,

George Bush
Chairman

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